1st April 1953]

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The town is proposed to be divided into four blocks. Plans for blocks I and II are ready."

SRI T. NAGI REDDI :—" Sir, in view of the formation of the Andhra State and the importance of Vijayavada, will the Government take steps immediately and see that the drainage scheme is sanctioned now? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" I have already said that the question is being examined by the Local Administration and Finance Departments."

Representation from the Arthala Tea Estate Thozhilali Union.

* 257 Q.—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state whether Government received any memorandum from the Secretary, Arthala Tea Estate Thozhilali Union on 6th February 1953, regarding the discharging of two maistries and 86 workers under them violating section 33 of the Industrial Disputes Act: and if so, what action has been taken thereon?

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" A copy of memorandum, dated 6th February 1953, was received from the Secretary, Arthala Tea Estate Thozhilali Union, Kerala Estate P.O., Malabar, but no action was taken thereon as it was addressed to the Manager, Arthala Tea Estates, Limited, Kerala Estate P.O. and not to the Government."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" Sir, if section 33 of the Industrial Disputes Act is violated by any management, the said Act says that legal action can be taken against the management. In this case, when the management has violated section 33 of the Act, what action have the Government taken? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" The Government take action when their attention is drawn to a dispute that has taken place saying that the management has done something, and that the workers are thereby affected harmfully. We received no such memorandum. The letter was addressed to the management, and a copy thereof was sent to the Government. The Government will not take action under section 33 of the Act on a copy of letter addressed to the management."

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—" The obvious idea of sending a copy of the Government is to draw their attention to the fact that a particular offence has been committed and request them to take action against the management. That being so, may I know they have not taken any action? " 3-10 p.m.

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" My hon. Friend is a lawyer and he knows the difference between drawing one's attention and requesting one to take action. It is

[1st April 1953

quite possible that it is a copy of the letter for the information of the Government. Unless a specific request is made, Government cannot take action *suo motu* under section 33."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU :—" May I know why the Government delayed taking action? Is it simply on some technical pretext or for some other reason? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" It is not a technical pretext. It is because of a lacuna in the method of approach. Unless legal steps are taken to bring the matter to the notice of the Government, action cannot be taken. The hon. Member must know that these are matters which will be taken on appeal either to the High Court or to the Tribunal."

SRI T. C. NARAYANA NAMBIAR :—" In view of the fact that the vast majority of the people—99·9 per cent of them—are not lawyers and pleaders, and in view of the fact that the workers have sent a copy of the representation to the Government in the full belief that the Government will see that justice is done to them, will the Government see that at least in future such representations are cared far properly? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" Sir, ignorance is no excuse in law. If representation is made to the Government in the proper manner, we will take action."

SRI T. NAGI REDDI :—" As the question is of great importance, did the Government at least reply to the Secretary stating that the Government cannot consider this question as the memorandum has been addressed to the Manager and that the same should be presented to the Government? If it had been done, the Secretary would have sent the memorandum in the proper manner to the Government. May I know why the Government have not done this? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" The Government got no letter. The letter was addressed to the management and a copy was received by us. We do not acknowledge such letters."

DR. K. B. MENON :—" Sir, ignorance is no excuse in law, but ignorance should certainly be an excuse with a good Government." (Laughter.)

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" It is a matter of opinion."

SRI S. C. C. ANTHONY PILLAI :—" Is it a fact that Government take action against workers who have called illegal strikes without representations being made to them by the employers? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" What has that to do with this question? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" It is a hypothetical question."